

C A M P A I G N F O R
ACCOUNTABILITY

May 23, 2018

By Email: MDHHS-FOIA@michigan.gov

Legal Affairs Coordinator
Office of Legal Affairs
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
333 S. Grand Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.231 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks the following:

1. Copies of all contracts, grants, or other agreements entered into by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, or its predecessor, the Michigan Department of Community Health (together, the “Department”), pursuant to the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, from September 1, 2017 through the present, including but not limited to any contract or grant with Real Alternatives, a Pennsylvania non-profit; and
2. Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, or other documents received by representatives of the Department from, sent by representatives of the Department to, or exchanged between representatives of the Department and representatives of Real Alternatives, from September 1, 2017 through the present.

By way of background, the Michigan Legislature has designated a portion of the Department’s budgets for a “pregnancy and parenting support services program” to “promote childbirth, alternatives to abortion, and grief counseling” for each fiscal year beginning with 2013.¹ The allocation has been categorized as “prenatal care outreach and service delivery support” under the “Family, Maternal, and Children’s Health Services” heading.² Pursuant to the appropriations bills, the Department must “establish a program with a qualified contractor that will contract with

¹ 2012 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 200 at 32; 2013 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 59 at 32; 2014 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 252 at 32; 2015 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 84 at 157; 2016 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 268 at 166; 2017 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 107 at 174.

² *Id.*

qualified service providers to provide free counseling, support, and referral services to eligible women during pregnancy through 12 months after birth.”³ CfA has previously requested and received from the Department copies of Real Alternatives’ original grant agreement with the Department (the “2013 Agreement”), which was entered into by the parties in 2013 and was amended several times to extend its term through September of 2017. It is CfA’s understanding that the 2013 Agreement was allowed to expire on September 30, 2017; CfA wishes to review the contract or grant that replaced the 2013 Agreement, or, in the event that the 2013 Agreement was amended again and is still in effect, to review the amendment.

If it is your position that any portion of the records requested is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.243, please provide a written notice indicating the basis for that determination. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(5). If a requested record contains material that is exempt from disclosure as well as material that is not exempt, please produce the portions of the record that are not exempt. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.244.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information primarily to benefit the general public. Furnishing copies of these records will allow CfA to inform and educate the public about state funding received by a private organization. Accordingly, CfA requests that the information be provided without charge. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.234(2). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please respond to this request within five business days of receipt, as required by Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(2). If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department to process it. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director

³ *Id.*